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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 31, 2006

Ms. Lisa Hanf, Chief
Air Planning Office
Air Division, Region IX
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Ms. K. Sue Kiser, Director
Planning and Right of Way
California Division
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, California 95814-4708

Dear Ms. Hanf and Ms. Kiser:

Over the past several months, the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have worked closely with Air Resources Board (ARB) staff to identify a mechanism to ensure that the most up to date emissions inventory information and planning assumptions are used for assessing transportation conformity while maintaining California's SIP planning efforts on schedule. We appreciate the willingness of the federal agencies to work with ARB to develop a process that ensures progress toward implementing the new air quality standards and meets the requirements of federal conformity regulation and guidance.

I have attached a schedule for development and public release of ARB's mobile emissions model (to be called EMFAC2007 upon release) and updated vehicle fleet data. This schedule reflects the timeline discussed with the federal agencies in the October 17, 2005 conference call. The schedule includes the critical dates identified by the federal agencies, including release of EMFAC2007 for SIP development in the November 2006 timeframe. The model is currently under development, and therefore will be publicly unavailable until its completion and release. ARB will announce the official release of the model by posting the model to the Internet and in a letter to the public.

ARB understands that the release of the model will also begin a six month long transition period, at the end of which the new vehicle fleet data must be used in

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Lisa Hanf and Ms. K. Sue Kiser
January 31, 2006
Page 2

conformity determinations. Any emission modeling begun for transportation conformity after this six month period will need to use the new vehicle fleet information or the Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration will not be able to make any positive conformity determinations.

The attached schedule also shows updates to the vehicle fleet information in EMFAC occurring in 2010, 2013 and 2016. This reflects ARB's commitment to update the fleet information in EMFAC on a 3-year cycle. As the first update of this cycle, we will transmit EMFAC2007 containing updated fleet information to U.S. EPA in early 2007 with approval expected by July 2007.

ARB will consult with the federal agencies as appropriate throughout 2006 as model development continues. As a part of this consultation, we will be posting technical memoranda on our public website that describe many of the individual changes to the data and methods in EMFAC.

If you would like to discuss this further or have questions, please contact me at (916) 445-5610, or Dennis Wade of my staff at (916) 327-2963.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kurt Karperos, Chief
Air Quality and Transportation Planning Branch
Planning and Technical Support Division

cc: Dennis Wade
Air Resources Board

**Projected Milestones for Updating EMFAC for
California SIP Development and Transportation Conformity Analyses**

Date	Milestone (ARB action except where noted)
November 2005	Used a snapshot of available inventory information for development of gridded inventories to support air quality modeling.
July through September 2006	Complete data analysis and coding, including 2005 fleet characteristics.
	Update EMFAC2007 as appropriate with latest transportation activity estimates.
October 2006	Incorporate new DMV and activity data as appropriate.
November 2006	Model complete. Release EMFAC2007 for final phase of SIP development. Release updated vehicle fleet data. Begin six month transition for use of updated vehicle fleet data in conformity determinations.
Early 2007	Transmit EMFAC2007 to U.S. EPA for approval.
May 2007	Conformity determinations started after this date must use the updated vehicle fleet information.
Summer 2007	Submit new district and ARB adopted ozone SIPs and budgets that use EMFAC2007
July 2007	Approve EMFAC2007 for use in SIPs and conformity determinations. (U.S. EPA Action)
November 2007	Find budgets in submitted SIPs adequate for progress and attainment (U.S. EPA action).
April 2008	Submit new district-adopted PM2.5 SIPs and budgets that use EMFAC2007.
2010	Update EMFAC fleet characteristics with CY2009 data.
2013	Update EMFAC fleet characteristics with CY2012 data.
2016	Update EMFAC fleet characteristics with CY2015 data.